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News Releases and other News Material

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0543.93
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FASTER TEST SCREENS IMPORTED APPLES, PEARS, POTATOES FOR DISEASE

WASHINGTON, July 6--U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists are shortening the time it takes to detect disease-causing viroids overseas that could devastate American crops such as apple and pear trees.

Among infectious agents, viroids are the world's smallest and some of the toughest to identify since their discovery by a USDA scientist in 1971. Other diseases can mask symptoms of viroids, which are single stranded RNA molecules lacking a coat protein.

"Now new apple and pear trees coming into the U.S. can be grown in a greenhouse for just two months. And then screening them for apple scar skin viroid (ASSVd) takes just about a day or two using our new test," said plant pathologist Ahmed Hadidi of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

He said the new test is three to five years faster than the current practice of having to wait for the tree to bear fruit so that it's possible to look for ASSVd symptoms like spotting and scarring of fruit. About two to four days are then needed to single out the viroid.

"ASSVd takes the longest time to identify and confirm," he said. "It has been the hardest pathogen to uncover in apple and pear trees."

A faster test could mean growers and consumers may not have to wait as long for a new fruit variety that owes its flavor, for example, to an imported species, said Hadidi, an expert on viroids.

"We've seen prime candidates for new species, such as Chinese pears of superior flavor and market value, that must spend years in quarantine," he said.

Once USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service approves the technique, it will be used to screen plants at federal quarantine centers, he added.

"A foreign species--in fact, all incoming plants--undergo quarantine so no viroids or other disease-causing pathogens accidentally enter the country," said ARS research associate Edward V. Podleckis. He is working with Hadidi at the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory at ARS's Beltsville, Md., research center, where Theodor O. Diener, now retired, discovered the first viroid in potato tubers.

Podleckis, a plant pathologist, spent several months developing and perfecting a new tissue blot test for ASSVd, which infects pome fruit trees (apple, pear and quince) in China and Japan. ASSVd is spread by grafting from infected cuttings.

Podleckis' ASSVd test starts with a viroid-free plant. He grafts onto it a piece of the quarantined plant to be tested.

After the plant grows for two months, he takes a twig or a leaf from the plant's new growth and presses it down on a wetted filter so that some of the sap sticks to it. Then he uses a non-radioactive chemiluminescent probe to produce light that when placed next to the filter exposes a piece of photographic film. A dark spot appears wherever ASSVd is present.

Podleckis said the new test eliminates hazardous waste now left from using organic solvents to extract nucleic acids from plant tissues. It also replaces radioactive isotopes with chemiluminescent probes that can be "reused several times and store well frozen for up to a year." He said these non-radioactive probes "developed in our lab are every bit as sensitive as those made of radioactive phosphorus."

A similar test, newly developed, detects potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) that attacks potato tubers, he said. PSTVd can cause severe stunting and deformities of potato tubers.

Podleckis collaborated with Rosemarie Hammond, a plant pathologist in the ARS Molecular Plant Pathology Lab in Beltsville, on developing the PSTVd test, which uses a different probe.

So far, Podleckis has screened over 200 apple and pear trees for ASSVd and about 100 potato plants for PSTVd using the new tissue blot technique. He said the new technology has also worked in lab experiments to detect other viroids in other plants. About 25 different viroids are currently known to exist.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details Edward V. Podleckis or Ahmed Hadidi, National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md. Telephone: (301) 504-6209/6406.

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Release No. 0545.93
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ESPY ANNOUNCES MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES TO HELP WATERLOGGED FARMERS

WASHINGTON, July 6--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced several major steps to help ease the effects of excessive rains on farmers in the upper midwest.

The actions come in addition to the announcement by the president this weekend in Iowa making available \$397 million in disasters funds, as well as of his intention to seek additional disaster aid from Congress.

The announcement by Espy includes changes in farm programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture ranging from waiving the minimum size and width requirements for acreage conservation reserve (ACR) and conserving use (CU) acres to extending the prevented planting credit deadline to making available low interest loans.

"I believe the survival of the family farm is vital to our nation's interests and these actions, combined with the announcement made by President Clinton, will help farmers avoid a financial crisis because of the excessive rainfall," Espy said.

Last week, Espy toured flooded farm acres in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota. It's been estimated that millions of acres of corn and soybeans in the region will be lost due to record setting rainfall and flooding.

"When I was in the midwest, farmers told me over and over again that one of the things they need most is some flexibility in the farm programs. What I am doing today is giving them that flexibility," Espy said.

Espy's actions include the following:

- Waiver of Minimum Size and Width requirements. Producers will be permitted to designate small wet acres (minimum size .1 acre) as acreage conservation reserve (ACR) or conserving use (CU) acres. Currently, the minimum size is five acres. This will increase a producer's flexibility in dealing with abnormal conditions.

- Availability of 0/92 Program. Availability of 0/92 program for farmers who have enrolled in the farm program and have been prevented from planting or have failed acres. These farmers are eligible to participate in the 0/92 program. Producers will have until July 31 to select this program option.

- Extend time for Requesting Prevented Planting Credit. The prevented planting deadline will be extended. Producers will therefore have until July 31 to file a request for prevented planting credit. This action will provide farmers with additional time to make such a request.

- Extend Crop Reporting Dates. The reporting dates for spring seeded crops is being extended to July 31 in states affected by the unprecedeted adverse weather conditions. The window of opportunity for producers to make program choices, such as the 0/92 program, is extended with this action.

- Flexibility in Refunds of Advanced Deficiency Payments. When producers are prevented from planting corn and opt out of the program to plant soybeans, advance deficiency payments will be due. Affected producers will be allowed to refund the unearned payments within 30 days or arrangements can be made to repay in installments at the lowest allowable interest rates. This action provides

repayment under reasonable terms. A waiver of the refund of advance deficiency payments is prohibited by law.

• Availability of FmHA Loans. The Farmers Home Administration will make available emergency loans for physical losses and for production losses. FmHA will also make available loan guarantees.

Espy also said that the Rural Development Administration will be made available in Presidential declared natural disasters. RDA can provide loan and grant assistance for water and waste disposal systems and business and industry purposes. The assistance is limited to the repair and rehabilitation of actual uninsured losses not covered by assistance from the Federal Emergency.

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Release No. 0546.93

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WARM WEATHER INCREASES SALMONELLA RISK

WASHINGTON, July 7 -- Warm summer weather nearly doubles the risk of Salmonella outbreaks, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

"The warm and humid weather of summer increases the risk of a Salmonella enteritidis outbreak at every point along the food chain from egg producer to human consumer," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

During the past three years, Johnson said, an average of 45 percent of all Salmonella enteritidis outbreaks occurred between June 1 and August 31. The month of July alone accounted for an average of 21 percent of all outbreaks during the past three years. Of 191 outbreaks that were reported to USDA in 1990, 1991 and 1992, 85 outbreaks occurred during the summer.

"Salmonella enteritidis bacteria appear to thrive in the summertime, making it even more important that everyone take precautions when producing, shipping, handling and serving food to reduce the opportunities for contamination," Johnson said.

Although many types of food can become contaminated with the bacteria, meat, poultry, eggs and milk are particularly susceptible. Fresh eggs probably caused about 31 percent of all Salmonella enteritidis outbreaks reported to USDA from 1990 to 1992, Johnson said. Almost 40 percent of those outbreaks occurred during the summer months.

If investigators find that fresh eggs are connected with an outbreak, USDA's control program works to locate the infected poultry flock, Johnson said. Eggs from infected flocks will not be sold on the fresh market, but rather sent to plants to be pasteurized.

To reduce the risk of Salmonella, Johnson said poultry producers and transporters should be even more stringent about biosecurity, sanitation and refrigeration in the summer.

"Food handlers and consumers are also responsible for making sure fresh eggs and food made with eggs are refrigerated and handled properly during warm weather," Johnson said.

These food-handling tips from USDA will help to reduce the risk of foodborne illness throughout the year:

-- Don't leave food indoors at room temperature or outside for more than two hours. Keep hot food at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and cold foods at 40 degrees F. or cooler.

-- Use clean utensils and dishes to prepare all foods.

-- For recipes calling for raw eggs, such as homemade ice cream, use pasteurized eggs. Also use pasteurized eggs when you are preparing food to be served to large groups of people.

-- Buy only eggs that are refrigerated, clean and unbroken. Try to refrigerate eggs as soon as possible after purchase.

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For more food safety facts, call USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. Washington, D.C., area residents should call (202) 720-3333. Home economists and registered dietitians staff the line weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

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USDA PROPOSES STANDARDS FOR WHIPPED BUTTER

WASHINGTON, July 7--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to establish quality standards for the grading of whipped butter. Currently, the quality of whipped butter is evaluated prior to the whipping process, using the U.S. Standards for Grades of Butter.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposal would provide more accurate grading because the product would be evaluated in its final package.

The proposed standards would:

- Provide quality specifications for whipped butter at two grade levels (U.S. Grade AA and U.S. Grade A) in the interest of consumer preference for higher quality products;
- Define flavor characteristics to assist graders in classifying products;
- Define body, color and salt characteristics and describe qualities that would cause a product to be reduced in grade, and
- Establish optional microbiological and keeping-quality tests (not mandatory for grade designation). If requested by the buyer or seller, the product must comply with these specifications.

These standards would establish quality criteria for grade determination of whipped butter packaged in a variety of packaging containers.

USDA has standards for approximately 200 agricultural commodities. Use of the standards are voluntary on the part of industry, and when grading is provided, the user pays a fee for the service.

Details of the proposed standards for whipped butter were published in the June 30 Federal Register. Written comments, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Aug. 30 should be sent to Director, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-4392. Copies of the proposed standards are available from the same address.

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MILESTONE REACHED WITH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY DATABASE

Beltsville, Md, July 7--There are now over three million citations to agricultural literature in the AGRICOLA bibliographic database of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library.

"This is a historic occasion for the library, since AGRICOLA is the backbone of NAL's collection of agricultural knowledge," said NAL director Joseph H. Howard. "The more records we add to AGRICOLA, the better access people have to the collection."

"So much of scientific discovery involves building on what scientists discovered in the past," Howard said. "Having access to that past research is the key. That is what AGRICOLA provides. By continually expanding the database, we are able to better serve agricultural scientists and researchers and, indirectly, the world agricultural community."

AGRICOLA (the accent on the second syllable) means "farmer" in the Greek language, but at NAL it stands for AGRIcultural OnLine Access. Howard said it is the most complete listing of agricultural information available anywhere in the world, containing the bibliographic records of books, journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, software, audiovisual materials and technical reports relating to all aspects of agriculture. Subjects covered include animal production, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, conservation, ecology, economics, agricultural engineering, entomology, farm management, forestry, horticulture, hydrology, microbiology, nutrition and food science, plant science, rural sociology, soil science, veterinary medicine and wildlife protection.

Howard said that coverage is international in scope with materials in over 65 different languages from 130 countries included in AGRICOLA records.

"About 65 percent of the documents listed in AGRICOLA are in English," he said. "It is a tremendous resource to U.S. and world agriculture."

For the future, Howard expects that AGRICOLA's importance as an agricultural resource will grow yearly.

"NAL will continue to refine and develop AGRICOLA, adding documents and adding to the scope of the information contained in records," he said.

Online access to AGRICOLA is offered by DIALOG Information Services and OCLC. DIALOG can be accessed through the Internet by entering "telnet dialog.com". OCLC access is available by entering "telnet epic.prod.oclc.org".

AGRICOLA is also available on CD-ROM from the company SilverPlatter.

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, one of three national libraries of the United States.

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Release No. 0550.93

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ESPY ANNOUNCES \$247 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR RURAL HOUSING

WASHINGTON, July 7--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that \$247 million will be available immediately for guaranteed single-family home loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration.

The funds were included in a supplemental appropriations bill cleared by Congress and signed by President Clinton late last week.

"We are making these loan funds available without delay so people in need of decent housing won't have to wait any longer," Espy said. "This is part of our long-standing commitment to the people of rural America."

FmHA ran out of funds for the loan guarantees in April when demand reached unexpectedly high levels. The agency's direct loans for housing have continued without interruption.

Funding will be allocated among the states on a formula based on their original allocation for the fiscal year and their rate of use when funding expired in April.

A reserve account will be retained initially in FmHA's national office in Washington to assure that each state receives its fair share of funds.

"Funding for the guaranteed single-family home loans can begin today," Espy said. "People with applications already in will begin hearing from their lenders quite soon."

Loan applications have been assigned these priorities:

1. Those on hand in FmHA field offices before July 6.
2. Those received by lenders before April 21, but not yet forwarded to FmHA offices.
3. Those received by lenders between April 21 and July 6, but not yet forwarded to FmHA offices.

Following are the funds available to each state.

STATE	DOLLARS
ALABAMA	6,798,770
ARIZONA	2,000,000
ARKANSAS	4,314,650
CALIFORNIA	4,065,851
COLORADO	2,000,000

STATE	DOLLARS
CONNECTICUT	2,000,000
DELAWARE	2,000,000
FLORIDA	2,000,000
GEORGIA	2,000,000
IDAHO	2,000,000
ILLINOIS	2,135,618
INDIANA	2,000,000
IOWA	2,000,000
KANSAS	2,782,550
KENTUCKY	4,998,425
LOUISIANA	3,014,300
MAINE	2,000,000
MARYLAND	2,000,000
MASSACHUSETTS	2,000,000
MICHIGAN	2,000,000
MINNESOTA	2,000,000
MISSISSIPPI	6,897,710
MISSOURI	2,000,000
MONTANA	1,351,900
NEBRASKA	2,000,000
NEVADA	2,000,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,000,000
NEW JERSEY	2,000,000
NEW MEXICO	2,307,200
NEW YORK	11,313,550
NORTH CAROLINA	2,099,545
NORTH DAKOTA	946,350
OHIO	2,000,000
OKLAHOMA	3,572,760
OREGON	2,889,270
PENNSYLVANIA	9,197,758
RHODE ISLAND	2,000,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,300,200
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,000,000
TENNESSEE	2,000,000
TEXAS	14,455,400
UTAH	2,000,000
VERMONT	2,000,000
VIRGINIA	2,000,000
WASHINGTON	2,474,950
WEST VIRGINIA	2,000,000
WISCONSIN	2,000,000
WYOMING	2,000,000
ALASKA	2,000,000
HAWAII	1,266,000
W. PACIFIC AREAS	1,000,000
PUERTO RICO	7,945,000
<u>VIRGIN ISLANDS</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>
STATE TOTALS	160,127,757
GENERAL RESERVE	86,853,244
NATIONAL TOTALS	246,981,000



Release No. 0551.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES 1993-1994 MARKETING YEAR PENALTY RATES FOR EXCESS TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, July 7 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released the penalty rates charged producers, dealers and warehouse operators for marketing excess tobacco.

Randy Weber, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said Section 314 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1939, as amended, requires that USDA assess these penalties. The penalty rate is 75 percent of the average market price for that kind of tobacco for the last market year.

"This law applies to every kind of tobacco subject to marketing quotas," Weber said. "When the average market prices for each type of tobacco are determined and announced, the penalty rates are then calculated."

Kinds of tobacco and their penalty rates are:

Rate of Penalty -- 1993-1994 Marketing Year

Kind of Tobacco	Cents per Pound	Penalty Rate	Flue-Cured
Flue-Cured			129
Burley			136
Fire-Cured (Type 21)			121
Fire-Cured (Types 22 and 23)			163
Dark Air-Cured (Types 35 and 36)			127
Virginia Sun-Cured (Type 37)			104
Cigar-Filler and Binder (Types 42, 43, 44, 54 and 55)			112
Puerto Rico Cigar-Filler (Type 46)			57

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Release No. 0552.93
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ESPY LAUNCHES \$1 MILLION DISADVANTAGED FAMILY FARMERS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, July 8--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is seeking proposals that will help disadvantaged family farmers stay in business and continue to be an integral economic resource in rural America.

Espy said the U.S. Department of Agriculture wants proposals from groups such as community-based organizations, historically black 1890 land grant colleges, Indian Tribal community colleges, Alaskan native cooperative colleges and Hispanic post secondary institutions. The USDA has set Aug. 1 as a deadline for groups to submit applications. The department, which has \$1 million to award to help develop the proposals, will select which applications to fund by the end of September.

"We are committed to helping the small and disadvantaged farmer survive," said Espy. "The number of minority family farmers has been on the decline and we must develop better outreach programs to assist them. The American tradition of the small and diverse family farm should be allowed to survive. Family farmers are an important economic resource to our rural communities."

Espy, who was a leading advocate for family farmers while serving in Congress from 1987 until his resignation this year to become secretary of agriculture, sponsored a meeting earlier this year in Vicksburg, Miss., that focused on how best to halt the decline of the disadvantaged family farmer.

The disadvantaged family farmers program was announced in the July 2 Federal Register. The program calls for the development of five-year comprehensive plans on how to better provide technical assistance and outreach to small and disadvantaged farmers, who make up about 3 percent of the nation's 2 million farmers. Disadvantaged farmers include African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan natives, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

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USDA ESTIMATES 1993 MEAT IMPORTS

WASHINGTON, July 9--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's third quarterly estimate of meat imports under the Meat Import Act puts total imports at 1,259.1 million pounds for 1993. The estimate is unchanged from the April estimate.

The 1,259.1 million pound estimate is just below the trigger level of 1,259.2 million pounds at which meat import quotas would be required under the Act's provisions.

Earlier this year, Australia and New Zealand signed voluntary restraint agreements to limit their shipments of meat items subject to the law to 694.9 and 425.0 million pounds, respectively. These agreements should keep total 1993 imports of beef below the trigger level, Moos said.

The two countries are the largest suppliers of fresh beef to the U.S. market, and historically supply almost 90 percent of total U.S. meat imports subject to the Act.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 required the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items -- primarily beef and veal -- if a USDA quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level.

USDA's import estimate includes fresh, chilled or frozen meat of cattle, sheep (except lambs), goats and certain prepared beef and veal products.

Imports of meat subject to the law -- by month -- are:

	1990	1991	1992	1993
----- Million pounds -----				
January	90.7	66.0	97.6	171.3
February	97.1	85.9	99.3	119.6
March	115.4	114.4	91.1	102.3
April	118.0	97.1	129.9	170.6
May	76.9	101.5	143.2	107.1
June	100.8	145.2	132.2	
July	121.3	121.9	167.5	
August	122.2	144.6	114.3	
September	137.7	113.8	75.7	
October	99.9	173.3	151.2	
November	131.8	82.5	95.6	
December	141.0	84.4	26.5	
Total*	1,352.8	1,330.6	1,324.1	

* Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Program Announcements-****USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES**

WASHINGTON, July 6--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made July 13 at 3 p.m. EDT.

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Release No. 0549.93
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FGIS PUBLISHES NEW MOISTURE METER CHARTS

WASHINGTON, July 7--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has published three revised conversion charts for the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter.

The revisions correct system differences which were found to be statistically significant during a routine annual review of the charts.

Effective July 1, the new charts for Small Red beans (Chart B-7-93), Small White beans (Chart B-15-93), and Yelloweye beans (Chart B-16-93) should be used for all official inspections.

The Motomco Moisture Meter is the officially approved instrument for testing moisture in grains. Technical contact: Jim Rampton, FGIS Quality Assurance and Research Division, (816) 891-0450.

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Release No. 0553.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, July 8--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, July 15. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 9, through midnight Thursday, July 15.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 81 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.73 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	42.44 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	81
II.	USNE Price	57.85 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>- 56.12</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.73 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	56.12
<u>Adjustments:</u>	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Avg. U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>- 13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	<u>42.44</u>
Further AWP adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	42.44 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	56.12
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>- 51.54</u>
	4.58
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>- 3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.63 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.09 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE minus NE Current	Current User Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	June 17, 1993	60.30	58.37	1.93	0.68
2	June 24, 1993	59.55	57.93	1.62	0.37
3	July 1, 1993	58.70	57.19	1.51	0.26
4	July 8, 1993	58.15	56.81	1.34	0.09

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

The USNE forward price has exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.48 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery after September 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE minus NE Forward	Forward User Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	June 17, 1993	59.10	57.70	1.40	0 2/
2	June 24, 1993	58.50	57.15	1.35	0 2/
3	July 1, 1993	58.20	56.50	1.70	0.45
4	July 8, 1993	57.85	56.12	1.73	0.48

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, July 15.

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Release No. 0555.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES INFORMAL HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 1993 SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS

WASHINGTON, July 9--An informal hearing on fiscal year 1993 sugar marketing allotment allocations to processors will be held here at 9 a.m. July 15 in the Jefferson Auditorium, U.S. Department of Agriculture's South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.

According to USDA officials, this hearing will give interested persons an opportunity to comment on and ask questions about the preliminary marketing allocations announced June 30 for sugar beet and sugarcane processors. Supporting data should be submitted in writing at the hearing.

Additional information is available from Robert D. Barry, director, sweeteners analysis division, USDA-ASCS, Room 3739-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C.; telephone (202) 720-3391; fax (202) 720-8261.

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Media Advisory-

Release No. 0557.93

REPORTING CHANGE IN THE "WASDE" REPORT

WASHINGTON, July 9--The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's World Agricultural Outlook Board will reflect changes in reporting for the countries of the former Soviet Union and the Baltic States. The changes, which started in the May issue for cotton only, will include other crops starting with the July 12 issue.

World grain supply and use tables will show selected countries of the former Soviet Union as well as regional totals for the Baltic States and the FSU-12. World totals for grains and oilseeds will reflect individual country estimates. Therefore, world trade totals as well as regional trade totals will include trade among the individual countries of the former Soviet Union.

Contact: Raymond L. Bridge, 720-5447.



